

Summer 6-15-2000

## ENG 3703-051: Modern American Literature

Guzlowski  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_summer2000](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2000)



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Guzlowski, "ENG 3703-051: Modern American Literature" (2000). *Summer 2000*. 10.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_summer2000/10](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2000/10)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2000 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Summer 2000 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

3703-051

**English 3703: Modern American Lit.**  
**Prof. Guzowski, Summer Intersession OO**

**Office:** 320 Coleman Hall  
Phone 581-6973, email cfjzg@eiu.edu  
M-Th 330-430, T-F 1200-1, and by appointment

**Special Needs:** Students with special needs who require academic accommodations should contact Disability Services at 581-6583

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to give the student a general background in the American literature since the First World War. We will discuss the central literary movements of this period (modernism, imagism, existentialism, postmodernism, neo-realism), and the social, historical and cultural conditions which in part gave rise to these movements. Along with this general background, we will read and discuss a number of literary works which will serve as examples of these movements.

**Course Requirements:**

- Reading of Assigned Texts
- Discussion of Assigned Texts 40 points
- Short Analytical Essays 100 points
- Mid Term 100 points
- Final Exam 100 points
- Quizzes 60 points

**Grades:**

360-400 points = A	320-359 points = B
280-319 points = C	240-279 points = D
0-239 points = F	

**Reading of Assigned Texts:** This course requires much reading and a couple of the works are difficult. I've tried to space the big readings out so that we aren't doing one big thing after another. But, pretty much, you have to keep reading.

**Discussion:** We learn about literature by reading it and talking about it. Except for a few occasions when I will be introducing literary periods, movements, I will not lecture. Class will revolve most of the time around your observations, insights, and questions.

**Exams:** They will be comprehensive and will contain objective and subjective components. You will be asked to 1) identify characters, situations, images from the literature, 2) identify and explain quotations from the works we will be reading, 3) answer essay questions about them.

**Short Analytical Essays:** We learn about literature not only by reading and talking about it but also by writing about it. During the course of the semester, each student will write 10 short essays about the literature we'll be reading. To make certain that these essays are equally spaced (this will benefit both you and me), each student will be expected to write 5 essays before mid-term and five after mid-term. In addition, no student will be allowed to write more than 1 essay per author. The essays should be typed, and they should be at least 200 words long.

What should you write about in your responses? Each short essay should begin with an important question—clearly stated—about the text you are analyzing. This important question should be about an important issue in the work you are analyzing, or the question should focus on an important quote. Your analysis should answer the question that you raise. At the end of your essay, you should state another question, one that your analysis lead you to.

What should you not write about in your essays? Although I realize the importance of responding to a work of literature on a personal level, I want these essays to be analytical rather than personal. Also, the responses should not be summaries of the works being responded to.

The individual essays must be turned in on the day that we start discussing the work or works the response responds to. The reason for this is that I want your fresh and pure analysis [no matter how hesitant].

**Quizzes:** There will be 12 quizzes during the semester. The questions will sometimes be objective, sometimes subjective. Each quiz will be worth 5 points. If you miss a quiz, you will be able to make it up if you have a valid, serious excuse for the absence.

**Plagiarism:** Note the English Dept's statement: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dict.)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course.

**Syllabus:** The following may change because of various unforeseen factors. Also, note well that I do not give the titles of specific poems that we will be reading; this information will come before each assignment.

**A) Intro to historical and literary backgrounds**

**B) Modernists:**

Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "Wasteland" (P)  
Fitzgerald, **The Great Gatsby**  
Cummings, e.e. (P) and Williams, W. C. (P)  
Lowell, Amy and Elinor Wylie (P)

**C) The Thirties:**

Faulkner, **As I Lay Dying**  
Hughes (N) and Cullen (N)  
Wright (N) and Hurston (N)  
Williams, **The Glass Menagerie** (P)

**Mid-Term**

**D) World War II and After:**

Bellow, "Looking for Mr. Green" and "The Silver Dish" (P)  
Jarrell (P)  
Bishop (P) and Roethke (P)  
Lowell (P) and Plath (P)  
Ginsberg, "Howl"  
Vonnegut, **Slaughterhouse 5**

**E) Contemporary:**

Morrison, **The Bluest Eye**  
Oates, "Where are You Going" (P)  
Carver, "A Small, Good Thing" (P)  
O'Brien, **The Things They Carried**

**Final June 2**